

JAMES HAYWARD

ACTON

CONCORD

LEXINGTON

APRIL 19th, 1775

**GENEALOGY COLLECTION**

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**HAYWARD**



JAMES HAYWARD



EVERETT HOSMER BARNEY

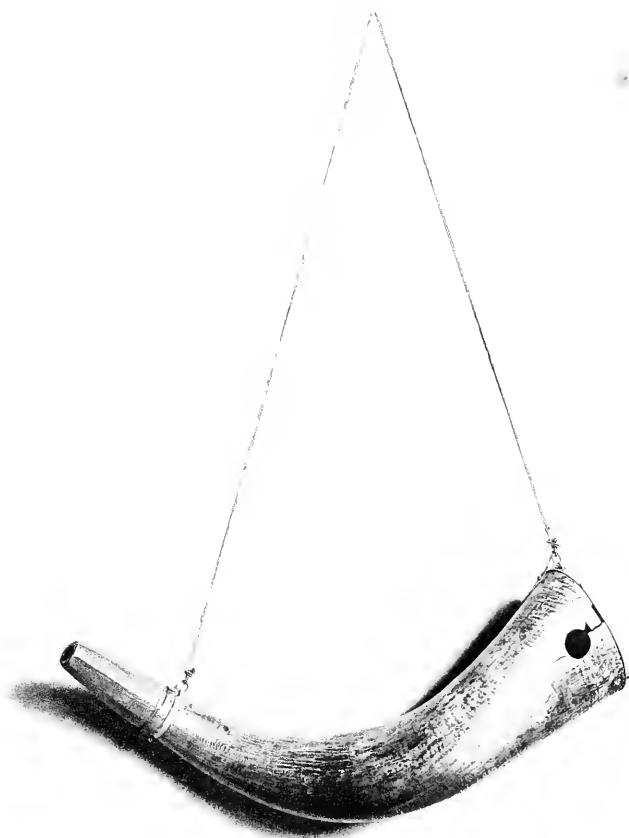


GEORGE MURRAY BARNEY









A Powder-Horn now in possession of the Public Library, Hcton, Mass-  
achusetts. "James Hayward of Hcton, Massachusetts, who was killed at Lexington  
on April 19, 1775, by a ball which passed through his Powder-horn into his body  
Presented to the town of Hcton."

James Hayward was a great-uncle of  
Frederic Hosmer Barney.

*A Powder-Horn now in possession of the Public Library, Acton, Massachusetts. "James Hayward of Acton, Massachusetts, who was killed at Lexington on April 19, 1775, by a ball which passed through his powder-horn into his body Presented to the town of Acton."*

*James Hayward was a great-uncle of  
Everett Hosmer Barney.*

# JAMES HAYWARD

Born April 4, 1750  
Killed in the Battle of Lexington  
April 19, 1775

With Genealogical Notes  
Relating to the Haywards

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*Illustrated*

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Privately Printed  
Springfield, Massachusetts  
1911

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By William Frederick Adams

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NOTE.—Collecting records for one line of the Barney Family has resulted in the accumulation of other material not directly relating to the line in quest, but is of such value that it should be preserved. It is for this object that this volume is published.

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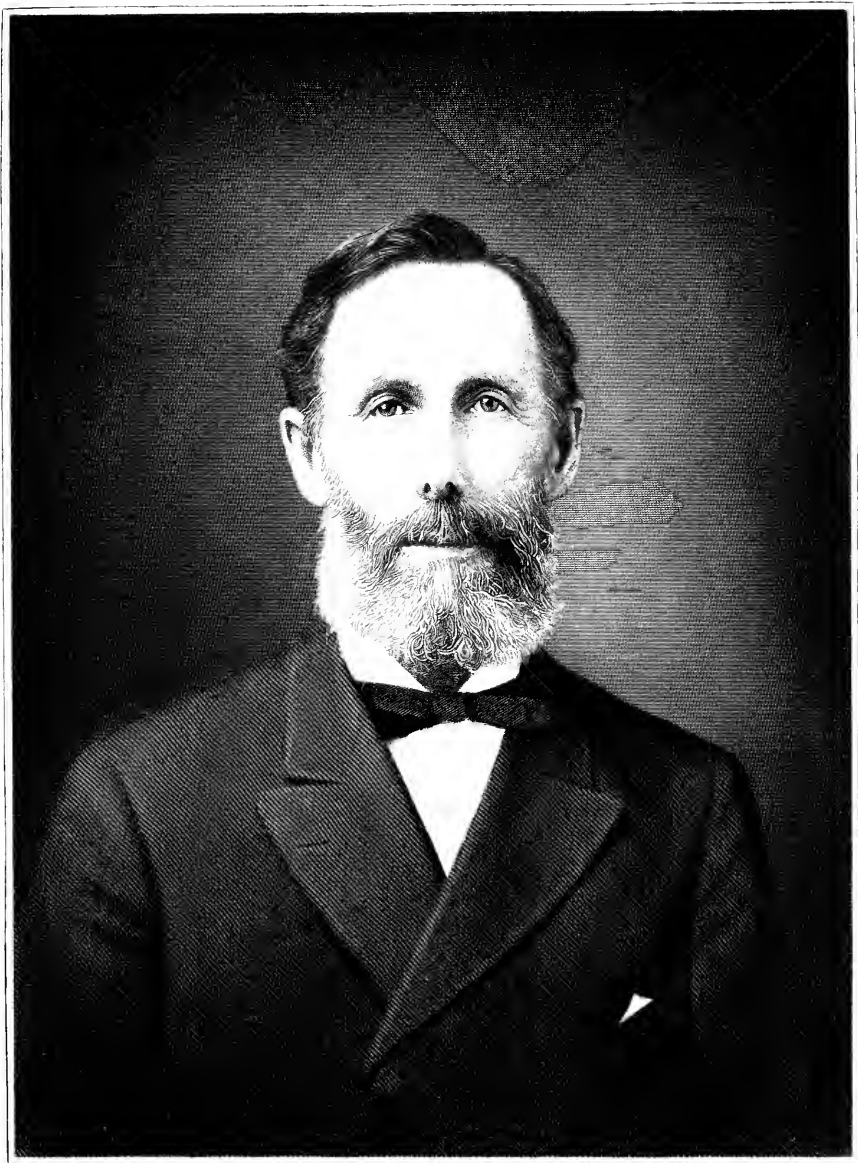


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*Everett Hosmer Barney*

## Hayward

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- I GEORGE, 1635, Concord, Massachusetts
- II JOSEPH
- III SIMEON
- IV SAMUEL
- V BENJAMIN
- VI AARON (married Rebecca, daughter of Joel Hosmer, Acton, and sister to Harriet Hosmer, mother of  
EVERETT HOSMER BARNEY  
and grandmother of  
GEORGE MURRAY BARNEY)

## Hayward

---

I—GEORGE<sup>1</sup>

Settled in Concord, Massachusetts,  
1635

Born ——

Married Mary (     )

Born ——

Died 1693

He died March 29, 1671

Children:

1. Mary

Born ——

Married Richard Griffin

2. John

Born December 20, 1640

Married Anna White June 2, 1670

Was constable in 1676

Children:

1. Mary

Born December 5, 1671

2. George

Born July 20, 1673

Married Hannah, daughter of  
John Chadwick, January 17,  
1695-6

3. Judith

Born April 25, 1675

Married Philip Goss August 30,  
1699

4. Mary (again)

Born May 13, 1677

Married John Millard, son of  
Simon, October 31, 1698

5. James

Born January 27, 1678-9

6. John

Born June 7, 1680

Married Susanna, daughter of  
John Dakin

7. Hannah

Born August 30, 1682

8. Sarah

Born June 16, 1689

3. Joseph

Born March 26, 1643

Married (1) October 26, 1665, Han-  
nah, daughter of James Hos-  
mer

She was born Concord, 1644

She died December 15, 1675

Married (2) Elizabeth Tarbell

He died October 13, 1714

4. Sarah  
Born May 22, 1645
5. Hannah  
Born May 20, 1647  
Married Jacob Farrar about 1668
6. Simeon  
Born January 22, 1649
7. George  
Born July 2, 1654  
Died December 16, 1675  
Unmarried



II—JOSEPH<sup>2</sup>      Son of George<sup>1</sup> and Mary (    )  
                                 Hayward  
Born March 26, 1643, Concord,  
                                 Massachusetts  
Died October 13, 1714  
Married (1) Hannah, daughter of  
                                 James Hosmer the first, Octo-  
                                 ber 26, 1665. She was born  
                                 Concord, 1644. She died 1675

Children:

1. Joseph  
Born August 17, 1666
2. Mary  
Born September 27, 1667
3. John  
Born February 2, 1669
4. Hannah  
Born June 14, 1670
5. George  
Born March 3, 1672
6. Dorothy  
Born January 23, 1673  
Married (2) Elizabeth Treadwell,  
                                 March 23, 1676

Children:

7. Ebenezer  
Born June 22, 1679

8. James

Born May 1, 1681

9. Simeon

Born June —, 1683

Married October 23, 1705, Rebecca,  
daughter of John Hartwell.  
She after his death married  
—— Temple. She died 1776,  
aged 94

He died May 18, 1719

10. Abial

Born September 12, 1691

III—SIMEON<sup>3</sup>

Son of Joseph<sup>2</sup> and Elizabeth (Treadwell) Hayward

Born June, 1683, Concord, Massachusetts

Married (1) Rebecca, daughter of John Hartwell, October 23, 1705

She, after his death, married  
—— Temple

She died 1776, age 94

Died May 18, 1719

Children:

1. Josiah

Married Mary Hosmer, Acton

Had Children:

1. Josiah

2. John

3. Simeon

And seven daughters

2. Mary

Married Ephraim Jones

3. Abigail

Married —— Merriam of Bedford

4. Samuel

Born 1713

Married Mary Stevens, Marlborough, Massachusetts,  
June 3, 1739

She was born 1715

She died September 18, 1797,  
age 82, Acton, Massachusetts

He died March 6, 1791, age 78,  
Acton, Massachusetts

Children:

1. Samuel

Born September 18, 1742

Married Mary Brown Decem-  
ber 20, 1764

Born 1744

He died August 14, 1824

She died May 18, 1798

Had Mary, born June 9, 1768

2. Paul

Born April 7, 1745, Acton

3. Lucy

Born June 19, 1747

4. James

Born April 4, 1750 (Town  
records)

Killed at Battle of Lexington,  
April 19, 1775

5. Benjamin

Born December 1, 1752, Acton

Died October 20, 1838, Acton

6. Mary

Born April 26, 1755

7. Rebeckah

Born November, 1758

8. Stevens (Captain)

Born 1761, Acton

Married (1) Hannah Hunt,  
May 23, 1782

(2) Rebecca Hunt,  
March 3, 1811

Died October 6, 1817 (soldier  
1775)

5. Joseph

Married Abigail Hosmer

Children:

1. Simeon

2. Stevens

3. Joseph

4. Asa

5. John

6. James

And six daughters

6. Simeon

Married Sarah Hosmer

Settled in Sutton, Massachusetts,  
and had eight children

7. Ebenezer

of Killingly, Connecticut

#### IV—SAMUEL<sup>4</sup>

(Deacon) son of Simeon<sup>3</sup> and Rebecca (Hartwell) Hayward

Born 1713, Concord, Massachusetts

Married Mary Stevens, Marlborough, Massachusetts, June 3, 1739

She was born 1715

She died September 18, 1797, age 82, Acton

He died March 6, 1791, age 78, Acton

Both are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Acton, Massachusetts

Children:

##### 1. Samuel

Born September 18, 1742

Married Mary Brown, December 20, 1764

He died August 14, 1824, age 82

She was born 1744

She died May 18, 1798, age 54

Had Mary, June 9, 1768

##### 2. Paul

Born April 7, 1745, Acton

3. Lucy

Born June 19, 1747

4. James

Born April 4, 1750 (Town Records)

Unmarried

Died April 19, 1775

(James Hayward was great-uncle of Everett Hosmer Barney and great-great-uncle of George Murray Barney.)

NOTE.—James Hayward was a member of Lieutenant Hunt's Company April 19, 1775, and was killed in the Battle of Lexington in the afternoon of that day. The ball from the British soldier's gun which caused James Hayward's death, first passed through his powder-horn and this is now in the possession of the Public Library, Acton, Massachusetts.

NOTE.—The farm owned by Samuel Hayward and on which his son James Hayward was born, is now owned by S. R. Burroughs, West Acton, Massachusetts. Part of the original Hayward house was burned about 1750. It was remodeled and again burned in about the year 1890. There is now no house on the farm.





Names	Rank	the Battalion into which transferred from the regiment	the Company into which transferred	Monthly Pay	Days in the Service	Notes	
John Hayward	Rank 1	21. Miles	42	0.3.6	16.0	28	£ 0. 3. 0
John Wright	Rank 2	do	42	do	4.0	5	14. 3. 6
Major Smith	Rank 3	do	42	3.0	3.10	14	1. 1. 3. 6
William Wright	Rank 4	do	42	3.0	2.8	28	2. 11. 0
Capt. Mearns	Rank 5	do	42	do	do	5	3. 0. 0
John Davis	Rank 6	do	42	do	2.4	5	7. 1. 10
David Davis	Rank 7	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 8	do	42	do	do	28	2. 7. 0
Thomas Davis	Rank 9	do	42	do	2.0	14	1. 3. 6
John Davis	Rank 10	do	42	do	do	13	1. 2. 2. 6
George Davis	Rank 11	do	42	do	do	15	1. 4. 11. 6
James Davis	Rank 12	do	42	do	do	16	1. 0. 0
William Davis	Rank 13	do	42	do	do	7	1. 13. 0
Robert Davis	Rank 14	do	42	do	do	20	1. 12. 0
John Davis	Rank 15	do	42	do	do	14	1. 3. 0
John Davis	Rank 16	do	42	do	do	26	2. 0. 7. 6
John Davis	Rank 17	do	42	do	do	13	1. 2. 0. 6
John Davis	Rank 18	do	42	do	do	26	2. 0. 0
John Davis	Rank 19	do	42	do	do	10	17. 10. 0
John Davis	Rank 20	do	42	do	do	14	1. 3. 0
John Davis	Rank 21	do	42	do	do	10	17. 10. 0
John Davis	Rank 22	do	42	do	do	10	17. 10. 0
John Davis	Rank 23	do	42	do	do	7	1. 13. 0
John Davis	Rank 24	do	42	do	do	11	14. 4. 6
John Davis	Rank 25	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 26	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 27	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 28	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 29	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 30	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 31	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 32	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 33	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 34	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 35	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 36	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 37	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 38	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 39	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 40	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 41	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 42	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 43	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 44	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 45	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 46	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 47	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 48	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 49	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 50	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 51	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 52	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 53	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 54	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 55	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 56	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 57	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 58	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 59	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1. 10
John Davis	Rank 60	do	42	do	do	5	7. 1.

Errors & accepted

A True Copy

6. 2d novel, compared with the 1st  
 & Blackwelder }  
 and Turner } 2d

*John Howard Nelson*

Kidd's Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> 1878

John K. Quinn made dream catchers for the Indians  
 and he has recorded a few of them in all the tribes.  
 Before me I could see nothing there  
 but the Province.

[Encreux sur Peil]

For Council Feb 13 & 1976  
Paid railroad's insurance \$1. in that amount is  
drawn on the Trust for 2 3/4 y<sup>rs</sup> in full discharge  
of the within bill

Przy. i. eton  
D. Hert

Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Boston, May 12, 1775

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original roll  
preserved in this office and appears on Vol. 12, page 116, Re-  
cord collection, Mass. Archives.

Witness the Seal of the Commonwealth

Wm. H. Glue  
Teacher



## 5. Benjamin

Born December 1, 1752, Acton

Married (1) Lucy Hunt, April 6,  
1780, Acton

She was born March 28, 1758

He died October 20, 1838

She died April 26, 1784, age 26

Benjamin Hayward was a minute-  
man in Captain John Hay-  
ward's Company, April 19,  
1775.

Had Children:

### 1. Rebecca

Born 1781

Died 1843

### 2. Moses

Born August 23, 1783, Acton

Died 1829

Married (2) Tabitha (       )

She died December 17, 1818, age  
60 years

Had Children.

### 3. Lucy

Born September 20, 1785

Died 1828

4. Aaron

Born 1787

Married Rebecca, daughter of  
Joel Hosmer, January 1,  
1818

He died December 11, 1834

5. Luke

Born December 5, 1789

Died 1825

6. Sally

Born July 31, 1794

Died 1843

7. Tabitha

Born April 16, 1796

Died 1879

8. Susan (Town record is Sukey)

Born September 29, 1798

Died 1843

Married (3) Rachel ( )

She died August 30, 1835, age 77

6. Mary

Born April 26, 1755

7. Rebeckah

Born November, 1758

8. Stevens (Captain)

Born 1761, Acton

Married (1) Hannah Hunt, May 23,  
1782

(2) Rebecca Hunt, March 3  
1811

Died October 6, 1817 (soldier 1775)

V—BENJAMIN<sup>5</sup>      Son of Samuel<sup>4</sup> and Mary (Stevens)  
Hayward

Born December 1, 1752, Acton,  
Massachusetts

Married (1) Lucy Hunt, April 6,  
1780, Acton

She was born March 28, 1758

He died October 20, 1838

She died April 26, 1784, age 26

Children:

1. Rebecca

Born 1781

Died 1843

NOTE.—Rebecca Hayward was sister of Aaron Hayward who married Rebecca Hosmer, daughter of Joel Hosmer, Acton, and was niece of James Hayward, killed in the Battle of Lexington, Massachusetts, April 19, 1775.

2. Moses

Born August 23, 1783, Acton

Died 1829

Married (2) Tabitha (       )

She died December 17, 1818, age  
60

Had Children.



SPRIT OF '76





3. Lucy

Born September 20, 1785

Died 1828

4. Aaron\*

Born 1787      1180146

Married Rebecca, daughter of Joel  
Hosmer, Acton, January 1,  
1818

Born March 27, 1787, Acton

He died December 11, 1834, age 47

She died August 14, 1844, age 47

Had Children:

1. Abigail

Born October 9, 1818

2. Mary

Born March 24, 1821

3. Aaron Stevens

Born March 23, 1823

5. Luke

Born December 5, 1789

Died 1825

---

\*Aaron Hayward was nephew of James Hayward, killed in Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775.

6. Sally

Born July 31, 1794

Died 1843

7. Tabitha

Born April 16, 1796

Died 1875

Married Loel Wood

He was born June 3, 1792

Died 1863

Had Children:

1. Lowell F. Wood

Born May 6, 1826

2. Edwin H. Wood

Born June 5, 1829 (Shrews-  
bury, Massachusetts)

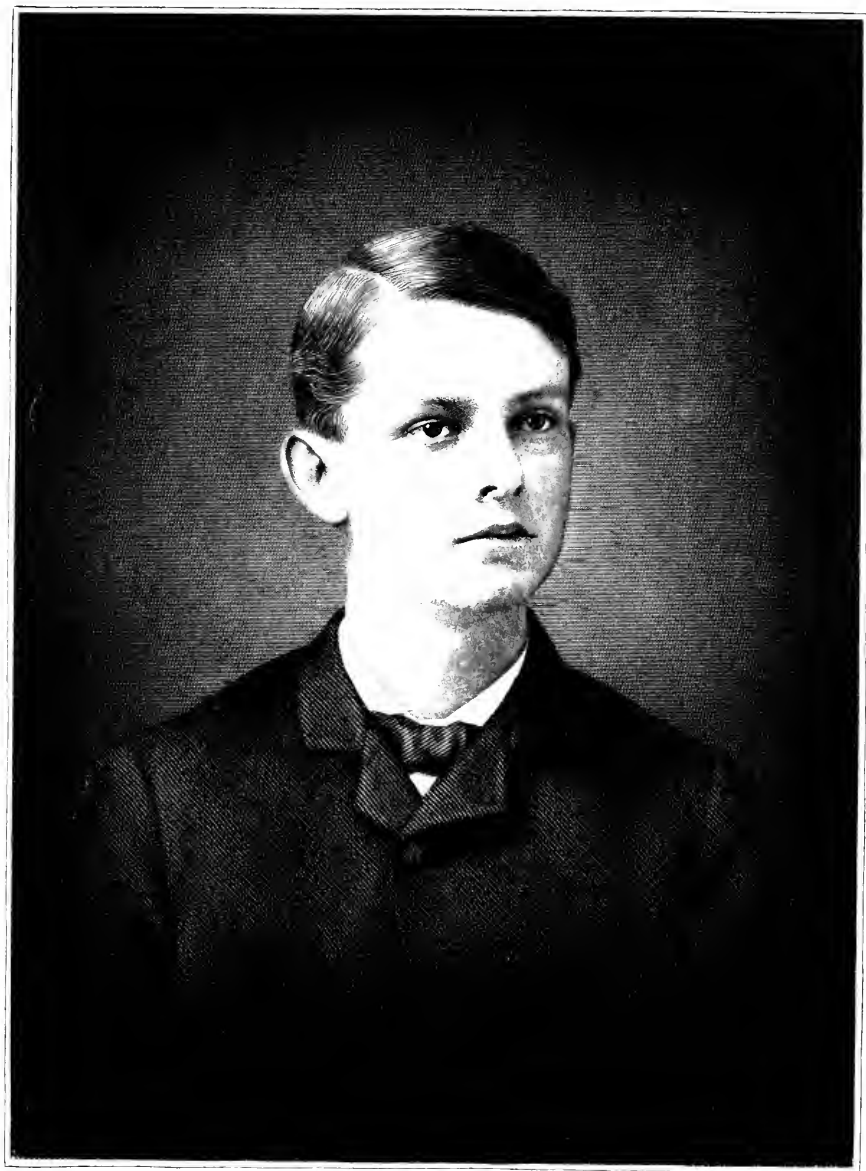
8. Susan (Town record is Sukey)

Born September 29, 1798

Died 1843

Married (3) Rachel ( )

She died August 30, 1835, age 77



*George M. Barney*



## VI—AARON<sup>6</sup>

Son of Benjamin<sup>5</sup> and Tabitha  
( ) Hayward

NOTE.—Aaron was nephew of James Hayward, killed in the Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775.

Born 1787

Married Rebecca, daughter of Joel Hosmer, January 1, 1818, Acton, Massachusetts. (She was a sister of Harriet (Hosmer) Barney, mother of Everett Hosmer Barney and grandmother of George Murray Barney.)

She died August 14, 1844

He died December 11, 1834, age 47

Both are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Acton, Massachusetts

Children:

- ## 1. Abigail

Died January 12, 1820, 15 months  
3 days old

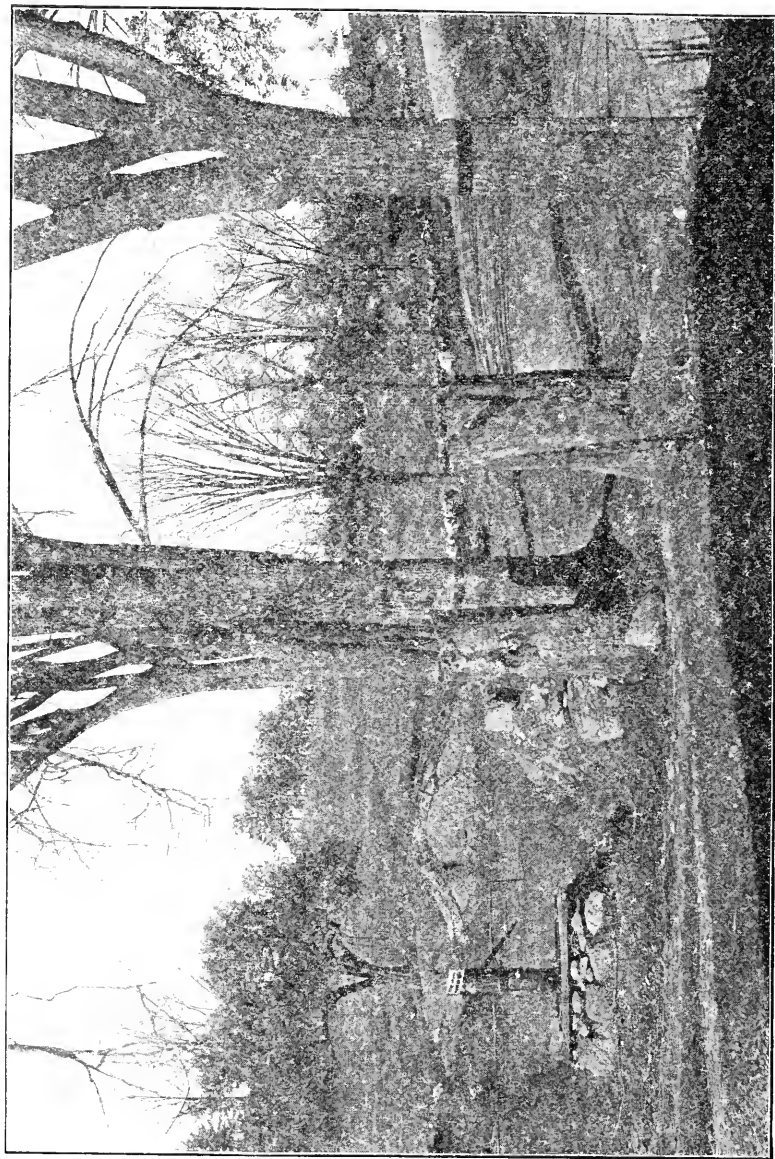
- ## 2. Mary

Married — Bower

- ### 3. Aaron, junior

- #### 4. Hartwell

Died September 7, 1847, age 21



FISK'S HILL, LEXINGTON

# Concord-Lexington Fight

APRIL 19, 1775

---

“At Fisk’s Hill in Lexington, they had, as some thought, the severest encounter of all the way. The road ran around the eastern base of a steep, thickly-wooded hill. James Hayward, who had been active and foremost all the way, after the British had passed on, came down from the hill and was aiming for a well of water—the same well is still to be seen at the two-story house on the right from Concord to Lexington, not two miles from the old meeting-house. As he passed by the end of that house he spied a British soldier, still lingering behind the main body, plundering. The Briton also saw Hayward and ran to the front door to cut him off. Lifting up his loaded musket he exclaimed, ‘You are a dead man.’ Hayward immediately said, ‘So are you.’ They both fired and both fell. The Briton was shot dead, Hayward mortally wounded, the ball entering his side first passing through his powder-horn, driving the splinters into his body. He lived eight hours. His father was Deacon Samuel Hayward.

“James Hayward was not liable to military duty. He ‘turned out’ that morning as a volunteer in the strictest sense—as hundreds did. He was one of the earliest at Davis’ house, belonged to the same school district and born and bred by the side of him, their

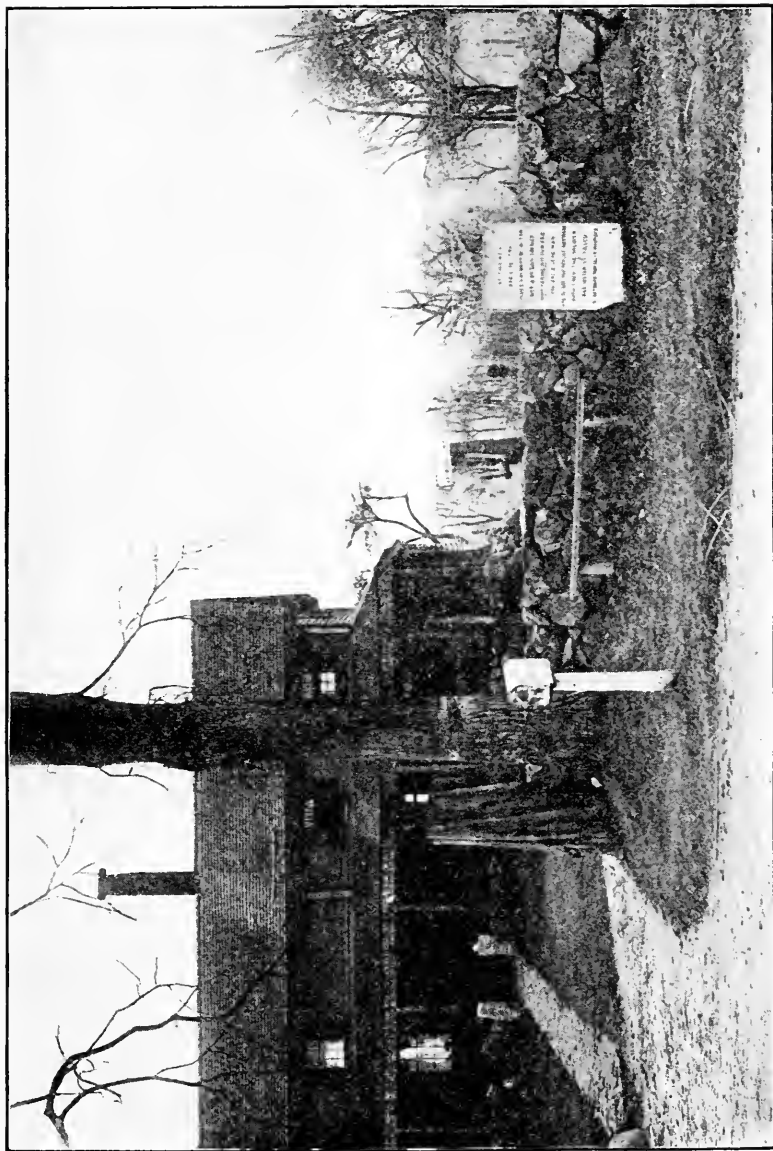
fathers being next door neighbors. He was twenty-five years old, one of the most athletic, fine-looking, well-informed, well-bred young men in town. He had been a schoolmaster, he knew the crisis, he knew what he was fighting for and what was to be gained. He came early to Davis' house and acted with his company. He was seen to go to grinding on the grindstone, the point of his bayonet. On being asked why he did it, 'Because,' he said, 'I expect before night, we shall come to a push with them, and I want my bayonet *Sharp.*' "

A fine stone tablet has been erected by the town of Lexington, near the house where James Hayward fell, in honor of the man and the event.

What is supposed to be from the original house which was standing at the time James Hayward was shot, is to be seen as a part of the house on the farm and located not far from the well.

The bodies of Captain Isaac Davis and Abner Hosmer, killed at the North Bridge on the morning of April 19, 1775, and James Hayward, killed in the afternoon of the same day, were taken to the house of Mrs. Isaac Davis and their funeral was attended there.





At this well, April 19, 1775, James Hayward of Acton met a British soldier who, raising his gun, said, "You are a dead man." "And so are you," replied Hayward. Both fired; the soldier was instantly killed and Hayward mortally wounded.





In November of the year 1774 a company of Minute-men was raised by voluntary enlistment, and elected Isaac Davis for their commander. This company, by agreement, met for discipline, each week, through the winter and spring, till the fight at Concord. In January the town voted to pay them each eight pence for every meeting till the first of May, provided they should be on duty as much as three hours, and should attend within half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting.

There were two other companies of infantry, or of militia, as they were called; the one in the east and the other in the west part of the town. The officers of the first were Joseph Robbins, Israel Heald and Robert Chaffin. The other was commanded by Lieut. Simon Hunt. James Hayward, who was killed in the afternoon of April 19, 1775, was a member of Lieutenant Hunt's company.

The two companies also met frequently for exercise, though not as often as the Minute-men.



If Lexington is the "Birthplace of Liberty"

and

"to Concord belongs not only the honor of being the spot on which 'was made the first forcible resistance to British aggression,' but also of being the birthplace which for all these years has been the synonym for a soldier of liberty,"

So to Acton belongs

the honor of giving the first blood as the result of that first and celebrated shot on that memorable day, the 19th of April, 1775, the "shot heard round the world."

The men Acton gave

under "seal of blood" on the morning of that day at Concord Bridge were

Captain Isaac Davis

and

Abner Hosmer

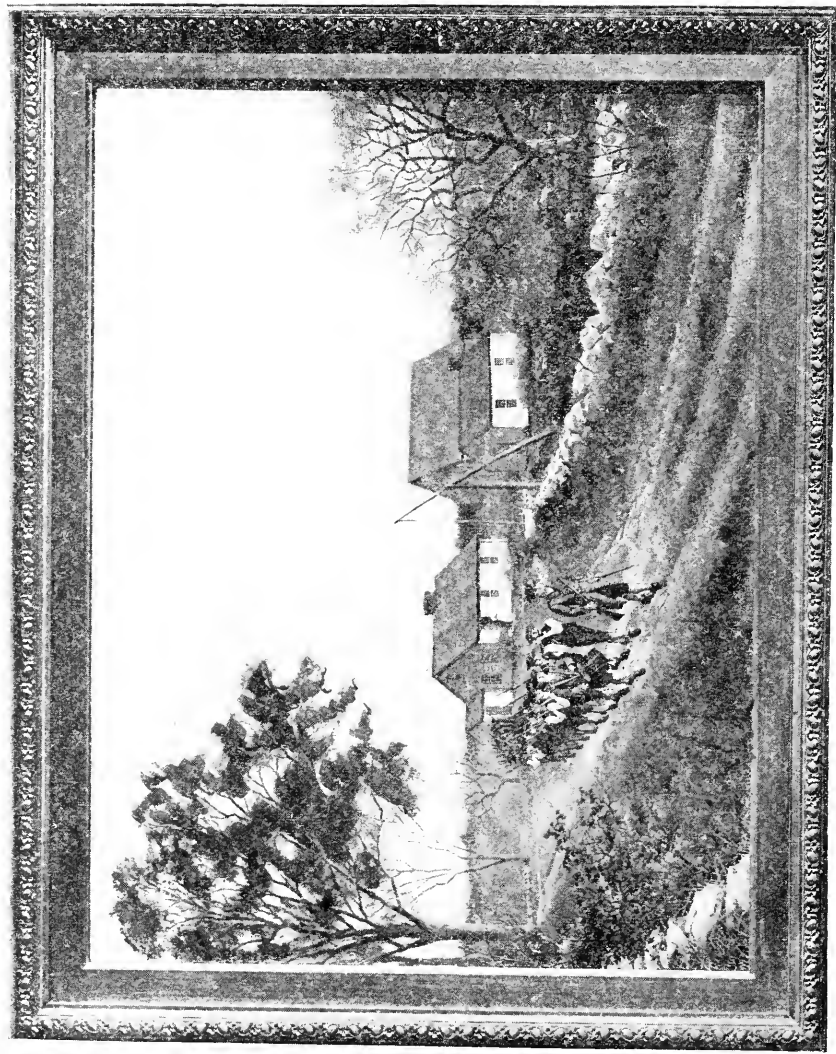
and during the afternoon of the same day in the Battle at Lexington,

James Hayward.

**CAPTAIN ISAAC DAVIS' COMPANY**







Captain Isaac Davis' Company on their march to Concord Bridge on the morning of April 19, 1775



## Captain Isaac Davis' Company

---

The following are the names of all the members of Captain Isaac Davis' company that are now known:

Isaac Davis, Captain	
John Hayward, Lieutenant	
John Heald, Ensign	
Joseph Piper, Clerk	
David Forbush	} Sergeants
Oliver Emerson	
George Maxfield	
Seth Brooks	
Luther Blanchard, Fifer	
Francis Barker, Drummer	

### PRIVATES

Joseph Barker	David Davis
Ephraim Billings	Elijah Davis
Oliver Brown	John Davis
*Joseph Chaffin	Reuben Davis
Ezekiel Davis	Jacob Gilbert
*Benjamin Hayward	Joseph Reed
Abner Hosmer	Stephen Shepherd
Jonas Hunt	Solomon Smith
James Law	Jonathan Stratton
Reuben Law	William Thomas
Joseph Locke	Thomas Thorp
Philip Piper	*Moses Woods
Abraham Young	

---

\*First Centennial Anniversary of Acton; address delivered July 21, 1835, by Josiah Adams. (Page 28, Appendix.)

“There are others of the company living in Acton, viz.: Benjamin Hayward, Joseph Chaffin and Moses Woods. They all joined in the pursuit in the afternoon, but were not present at the fight.”

The names of the men in Capt. Isaac Davis' company are the men that went to the bridge and were in the Concord fight, April 19, 1775. Later some of the older members claimed the number was thirty-eight. There never was any list of this company to be found—the reason for which is obvious—every man that joined the company, in the eyes of King George III, was a traitor, and if the colonies had made a failure, would have been hung. Davis' company was formed the fall before the fight and they met every week for drill and allowed pay by the town for one-half day's work. It would appear that the colonies knew this war had got to come and they anticipated it. There was never a list printed of the men of Davis' company who were in the fight until the celebration of Acton's centennial in 1835. There were three or four members alive at this time and in full possession of their powers, and there were also some others that were too old and infirm to give their depositions. They were all agreed, however, as to the company list of names.

The other two companies—the one in East Acton commanded by Captain Robbins, the other in West and South Acton, at one time commanded by Captain Faulkner, who was in the fall before promoted to Major or Adjutant of the 3rd Middlesex Regiment,



FRANCIS BARKER as Drummer Boy  
LUTHER BLANCHARD as Fifer

*Played the White Cockade in Captain Isaac Davis' Company of Minute-men from Acton, that led the first organized column that returned fire on troops of King George III at North Bridge, Concord, Massachusetts, April 19, 1775.*



King George's soldiers. This left the command of the company to Lieut. Simon Hunt who also marched to Concord. Their actions prove that they did not go very much in the interest of King George III.

Both of these companies turned out April 19, 1775, as militia. They had met and drilled from time to time, but not under pay of the town, as was Captain Davis' company.

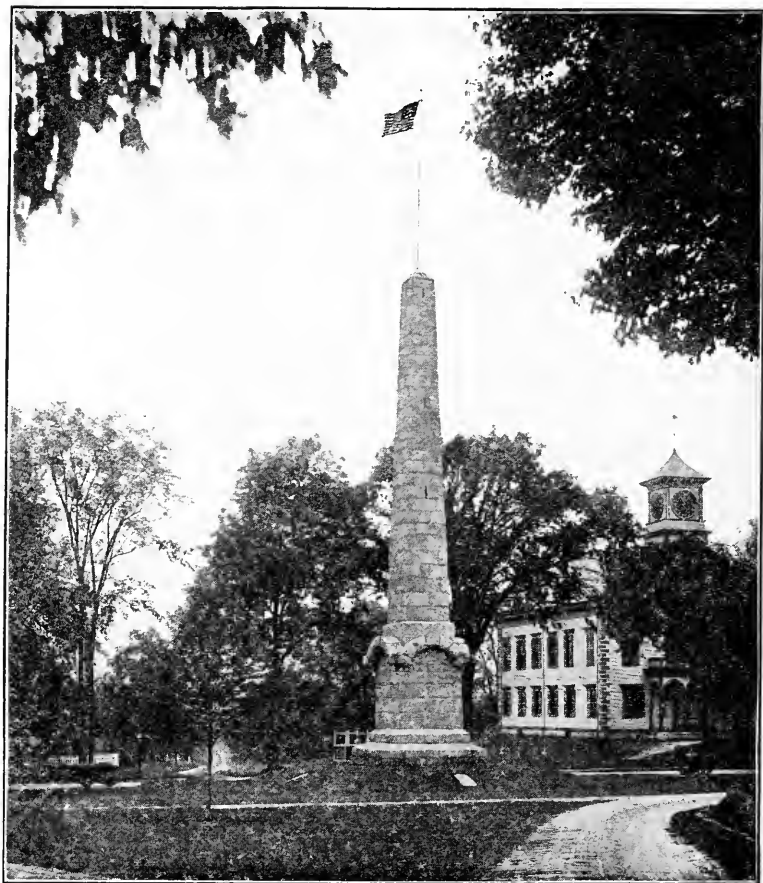
There are no company returns or lists of the men who assembled at the North Bridge in Concord to oppose the march of the British, April 19, 1775, in the Massachusetts state archives.

As far as an examination of the records of the Provincial Congress and of the Revolutionary Rolls collection shows, no such returns or lists were ever required or submitted. The alarm rolls preserved cover the service of men who performed definite tours of duty, ranging from one day to four weeks, while the army was in the process of formation.

The document in Vol. 12, page 116, Revolutionary Rolls collection, does not in itself carry proof that any of the men borne on the roll were present when the assembled militia were fired upon by the British. The service of the officers and men, as shown by the roll, began April 19, 1775, and they served under the command of John Hayward in the camp at Cambridge from five to twenty-eight days. Lieutenant Hayward was undoubtedly elected Captain of the company by the men immediately after the death of Captain Davis,

according to the law governing the militia companies of Massachusetts, and he and the men under him continued in service for the terms specified in the pay roll. The company could not have been augmented by recruits as town companies, whether minute-men or militia, were absolutely local organizations and the places of habitation of the men fixed their membership.





MONUMENT—ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

With  
Captain Isaac Davis  
are buried here  
Abner Hosmer, great-great-uncle  
James Hayward, great-uncle  
of  
Everett Hosmer Barney.



# The Davis Monument

ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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The citizens of Acton believing that the name of Capt. Isaac Davis, the first officer who fell in the struggle for independence, and also the names of his two brave townsmen, Abner Hosmer and James Hayward—one of whom fell by his side on the famous 19th of April, 1775, at the old North Bridge in Concord, and the other in the pursuit at Lexington, on the same day—were deserving of a better fame than history had usually awarded them, and a more commanding and enduring structure than ordinary slabs of slate to tell the story of their martyrdom and mark the spot where their dust reposes, passed the following vote at a large town-meeting holden on the 11th of November, A. D. 1850:

*“Voted, That the town of Acton erect a monument over Capt. Isaac Davis, Hosmer and Hayward, and that their remains be taken up and put in some suitable place on Acton Common, if the friends of said Davis, Hosmer and Hayward are willing, and that the selectmen and the three ministers in the town be a Committee to lay out what they shall think proper or petition Congress and the State Legislature for aid in erecting said monument.”*

A petition for this object was presented to the Legislature early in the session by Reverend T. J. Woodbury.

The committee consisted of Ivory Keyes, Luther Conant, James Tuttle, selectmen; James T. Woodbury, Robert Stinson, Horace Richardson, ministers, in behalf of the town.

The joint committee of the Legislature or the Militia to whom this petition was referred, unanimously submitted a report in favor of the project. The matter was fully discussed, and after the eloquent address and appeal of Mr. Woodbury, the resolve was passed by a large majority.

Two thousand dollars were appropriated, to be joined by an appropriation of five hundred dollars by the town of Acton, to be expended under the direction of Governor George S. Boutwell, and a joint committee of the town.

There was a difference of choice by the committee as to where on the Common the monument should stand. The decision was finally left with the Governor, who decided upon the present site, a spot not suggested by anyone before, but which all agreed was just the place for it when suggested by the Governor.

Another question decided was whether it should be made of rough or hewn granite. "Let it be of God's own granite," said Mr. Woodbury, "and let it be from the Acton quarry nearest to the site." Most of the granite was taken from the hill in the rear of Mr. Woodbury's residence, less than a mile to the north, and given by him for the purpose.

The model finally approved by the Committee has been universally admired for its beauty, simplicity and impressiveness. It is seventy-five feet high, the top is four feet four inches square, a square shaft reaching upward from a finely proportioned arch on each side of its base. The base is fifteen feet wide and extends eight feet into the earth and is of good split heavy blocks of granite. Through the center of the cap-stone projects upward a wooden flag-staff twenty-five feet in length, from the top of which a flag is kept floating at the expense of the town, on all days of patriotic import.

In a panel on the side facing the main avenue, the inscription reads as follows:

“The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the town of Acton coöperating to perpetuate the fame of their glorious deeds of patriotism, have erected this monument in honor of Captain Isaac Davis and privates Abner Hosmer and James Hayward, citizen soldiers of Acton and Provincial Minute-men who fell in Concord fight, 19th of April, A. D. 1775.”

In the morning of that eventful day the provincial officers held a council of war near the old North Bridge in Concord and as they separated Davis exclaimed, “I haven’t a man who is afraid to go,” and immediately marched his company from left to the right of the line and led in the first organized attack upon the troops of George III in that memorable war which, by the help of God, made the thirteen colonies inde-

pendent of Great Britain and gave political being to the United States of America.

“Acton, April 19, 1851.”

The old gravestones which stood for seventy-five years to mark the resting place of the three patriots in Woodlawn Cemetery have been laid on the sides of the mound at the base of the monument. They are very ancient in appearance and bear the following interesting inscriptions:

“Menenti Moro.

Here lies the body of Mr. Abner Hosmer who was killed at Concord April 19th, 1775, in ye defence of ye just rights of his country, being in the twenty-first year of his age.”

Hayward's is even more interesting, containing in addition this poetry:

“This monument may unborn ages tell  
How brave young Hayward like a hero fell,  
When fighting for his country's liberty  
Was slain, and here his body now doth lye—  
He and his foe were by each other slain,  
His victim's blood and his the earth did stain.  
From ye field he was with victory crowned  
And yet must yield his breath upon that ground.  
He expressed his hope in God before his death,  
After his foe had yielded up his breath.  
Oh, may his death a lasting witness lye,  
Against oppressor's bloody cruelty.”

This contains the story of his death. After the defeat of the British, he stopped at a pump to drink, when a British officer who came out of the house exclaimed, "You are a dead man." Both aimed, fired, and both fell, mortally wounded, the officer dying before young Hayward. The powder-horn worn by Hayward was pierced with the ball and is now preserved, having been silver-mounted by Edward Everett, and is in possession of the Public Library, Acton, Massachusetts.

The third stone is that of Captain Davis, which is headed, "I say unto all, watch," and then after a record of his death, this is added: "Is there not an appointed time to man upon ye earth? Are not his days also like the days of an hireling? As the cloud vanisheth away, so he that goes down to the grave shall come up no more. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more!

Job 7: 1, 9, 10."

The bones which were disinterred some days before the dedication, were nearly entire and were enclosed in an oblong black walnut box, highly polished and studded with silver nails. The remains were enclosed in different compartments, each marked upon the cover by a silver plate bearing the names of the old patriots. The cheek-bone of Hosmer showed the trace of the ball which caused his death, entering just below the left eye and coming out at the back of the neck.

The box was deposited in the monument, in the place designed for it.

The closing words of Governor Boutwell at the dedication of the Davis monument:

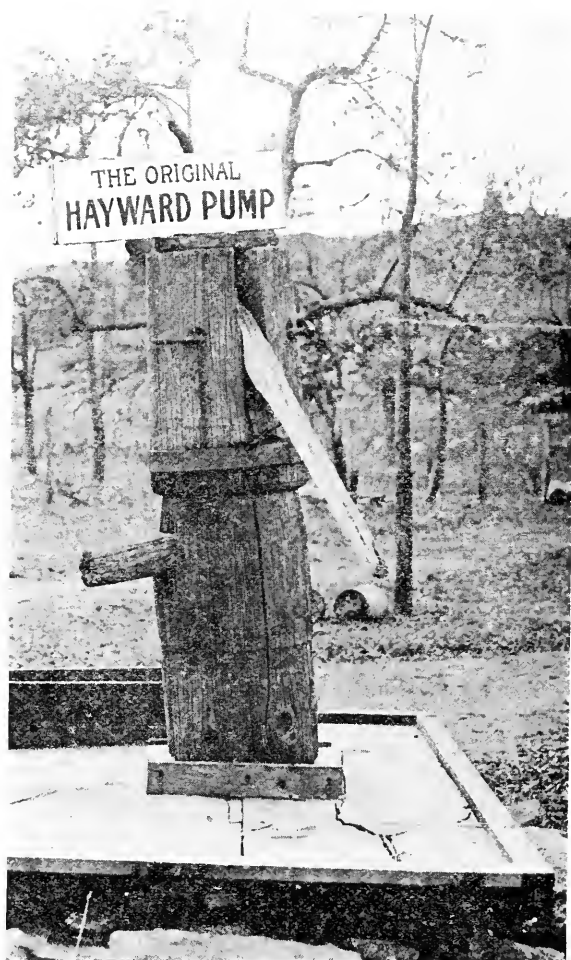
“Today the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the town of Acton dedicate this monument to the memory of the early martyrs of the Revolution and consecrate it to the principles of liberty and patriotism.

“Here its base shall rest and its apex point to the heavens through the coming centuries. Though it bears the names of humble men and commemorates services stern rather than brilliant, it shall be as immortal as American history.

“The ground on which it stands shall be made classical by the deeds which it commemorates and may this monument exist only with the existence of the Republic: and when God in his wisdom shall bring this government to nought, may no stone remain to point the inquirer to fields of valor, or to remind him of deeds of glory.

“And finally, may the Republic resemble the sun in his daily circuit, so that none shall know whether its path was more glorious in the rising or in the setting.”







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ON THIS IS ONE  
CAPTAIN ISAAC DAVIS  
FELL AT THE HEAD OF THE ACTION  
THIRTY-SEVEN MEN, FIRED BY A BRITISH  
MUSKET BALL AT OLD NORTH BRIDGE  
CONCORD APRIL 19 1775  
REPLACED BY THE TOWN OF CONCORD MASS. 1904





























